

# Message: File being read is terminated early

---

Reference Number: **KB-00971**

Last Modified: **March 24, 2022**

---

The information in this article applies to:



## QUESTION

When I try to open one of my files, this message appears:

"File being read is terminated early."

What does that mean?

## ANSWER

This error message indicates that the file you are trying to open is corrupted and can no longer be used.


One known way to cause the corruption that results in this error is to exit out of the Chief Architect program while it is in the process of saving the file. Because the save action is not complete, the program prompts the user to save their work, and when s/he clicks Yes, a crash occurs that results in file corruption.


This series of events is not common: it can only occur in situations where a saving a file takes an unusually long time, such as:

- If the file is particularly large
- If the computer is particularly slow
- When saving across a network or onto a removable storage device.

If you have encountered this error message and now cannot open the file that was terminated early, you will need to open a backup copy of the file and resume work on that file.

To avoid this problem

1. Never save your files across a network or directly onto a removable storage device such as a flash drive. Copy the file onto your computer's hard drive, save your work there, and then close the program and copy it back to the location where you got it.
2. Use the **Close** and **Exit** commands to close files or to exit the program, and wait until any progress dialogs are gone before closing.
3. **Save**  your work before closing a file or exiting the program.

If you close the program and it prompts you to save your work, always click **Cancel**. Then, save your work by clicking the **Save**  button.

---

#### Related Articles

 [Accessing Your Archive Files \(/support/article/KB-00099/accessing-your-archive-files.html\)](/support/article/KB-00099/accessing-your-archive-files.html)

 [Managing Your Archive Files \(https://www.chiefarchitect.com/support/article/KB-00775/managing-your-archive-files.html\)](https://www.chiefarchitect.com/support/article/KB-00775/managing-your-archive-files.html)